

MISCEL-
LANEOUS

763. The starting of canteens both at the Central Press, Bangalore, and the Branch Press, Mysore, under the guidance of the Central Board for a period of six months was sanctioned, subject to the condition that they should be managed on a self-sufficient basis afterwards.

(v) Meteorology.

764. The Department of Meteorology was administered on an agency basis on behalf of the Government of India from 1st April to end of 31st December 1950 under the scheme for federal financial integration and was taken over by the Centre from 1st January 1951 with the exception of the non-federal items of the Department which were transferred to the Revenue Department with effect from 1st January 1951. These non-federal items relate solely to rain-gauge stations and publication of rain-fall statistics.

-(vi) Horticulture and Public Gardens.

765. The Department of Horticulture continued its activities connected with the introduction, acclimatisation and propagation of plants of economic and ornamental value. A large collection of the most interesting ornamental and economically important plants were received from the various nurseries and botanical institutions from all over the world.

766. A number of ornamental and economic plants were propagated in the nursery for tree-planting drive.

767. Seeds and pots of both ornamental and economically important plants consisting of trees, shrubs and herbs were collected for sale and departmental supply. Some of the important varieties of seeds were also offered in exchange to some botanical and horticultural institutions both in and abroad. Botanical specimens were supplied to Colleges for examination and collection purposes. The control of insect pests and diseases attacking the horticultural crops continued. The spraying staff visited all the Government Horticultural farms and gardens, private orchards and gardens.

768. The Lalbagh maintained its popularity and high reputation as a centre of horticultural interest and scientific and technical utility. The general public availed themselves of the gardens for pleasure and recreations, while the

natural science students made use of the gardens for biological studies. Exchanges of plants with a number of institutions and private collectors, local and abroad, were continued and have resulted in the acquisition and introduction of many interesting and noteworthy species.

769. Public recreation grounds under the control of the department continued to maintain their popularity as places of public resorts and beauty spots. The lawns, footpaths and roads were kept clean and tidy by timely weeding, mowing, manuring, etc.

770. The summer horticultural show was held on 5th and 6th of August 1950, and the winter show was held on 4th and 5th February 1951.

771. All the gardens and parks of the Palace were well maintained.

772. The total gate collections of Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysore, was Rs. 25,945. Children below four years and of local private schools numbering 9,108 were admitted free. The first Friday of every month continued to be set apart for admission to ladies and children.

773. The following additions were made to the zoo gardens:—

1. A pair of slothbear cubs received from Kalkere.
2. A male bison calf from Bhadravati.
3. A pair each of giant salamanders, racoons and modern ducks presented by the Japanese Government to the Prime Minister of India.
4. One white elephant and a pair of camels from the Palace.
5. A pair of parakeets and 3 Burmese fowls from Chamundi Vihar.

774. The Koramangala Farm was mainly set apart for the production of vegetables and grass for which there was a great demand. Many varieties of vegetables (both exotic and indigenous) were grown in the farm. The total quantity of grass and vegetables supplied to the customers during the year was 1,517,450 lbs. and 95,660 lbs., respectively.

775. The amount realised by the sale of produce for the year was Rs. 31,508.

Horticultural shows.

Parks and gardens of the Palace, Mysore.

Sri Chamarajendra Zoological gardens, Mysore.

Koramangala Farm.

MISCELLANEOUS

Propaganda
and Demon-
stration
work.

776. The district advisory staff visited during the year 2,861 villages in the State to conduct the necessary propaganda and demonstration in the correct method of planting trees, pruning and manuring and other cultural operations including plant pest control and afforded technical advice regarding selection of suitable land for starting new orchards and vegetable gardens.

Tree Planting
Drive.

777. The total number of fruit, fuel yielding, manurial and other varieties of economic plants supplied during the year in connection with the celebration of "Vanamahotsava" was 3,25,402 valued at Rs. 85,678.

Nandi Hill
Station.

778. The Nandi Hill Station continued to be popular as a health and pleasure resort due to a large influx of visitors throughout the year. Besides this, a large number of sight-seers, pilgrims to the temple and students from various Colleges for Botanical study and Engineering survey visited the place. The vegetarian and non-vegetarian hotels were maintained throughout the year. Arrangements were made for the prompt supply of daily needs. A dispensary, sub-post office and police out-post functioned from 15th March 1951 to July 1951.

Fri Krishna-
rajendra
Hill Station.

779. The season was very conducive to the stay of the visitors on account of the temperate climate. As usual, the vegetarian and non-vegetarian hotels and oilman stores were maintained.

780. The department took part in the All-India Dasara Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition held at Mysore in October 1950 and displayed instructive and interesting exhibits connected with horticultural work and held demonstrations in fruit preservation.

(vii) Stores Purchase Committee.

781. The total value of all purchases arranged by the Stores Purchase Committee on behalf of the several departments of Government both from firms in India and abroad amounted to Rs. 1,86,74,778 (Rs. 1,22,45,741). The value of orders placed with firms in India was Rs. 1,31,81,398 (Rs. 86,31,943) and the value of orders placed in foreign countries was Rs. 54,93,380 (Rs. 36,13,798) during the year.

782. The prices of almost all materials continued to be high. The increase in the value of purchases was mostly due to violent fluctuations in prices of the materials.